

REMARKS

A requirement for restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 was set forth in the Official Action, mailed May 24, 2004, in the above-identified patent application.

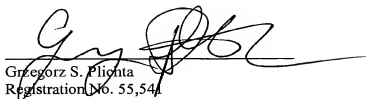
Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. In the Restriction Requirement, claims 1-40 were restricted in the following manner:

- I. Claims 1-27 and 33-40 are allegedly drawn to manipulating data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 101
- II. Claims 28-32 are allegedly drawn to query processing, classified in class 707, subclass 3

Applicants hereby elect Group I consisting of claims 1-27 and 33-40 for prosecution at this time and withdraw claims 28-32. This election is made without traverse, and no representations are made by this election concerning the merits of the Restriction Requirement with respect to the possible existence of multiple distinct inventions among the originally present claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of all non-elected claims in one or more related applications. Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending elected claims.

Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statements submitted November 21, 2003 and December 20, 2004.

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